

REMARKS

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Claims 18-22 have been canceled. Claims 2-14 and 16-17, and amended claims 1 and 15 are in this application.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (Japan Patent Publication 10-070641) in view of Safai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,469) and Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,407).

Amended independent claim 1 recites in part the following:

"an image distribution server . . . for authenticating the user identification and/or password information by use of a certification server; and only when the user identification and/or password information has been successfully authenticated for generating electronic address information used for retrieving and viewing said image data, and transmitting said electronic address information to said image display apparatus using said transmission destination information."
(Emphasis added.)

As best understood, the Examiner appears to rely on Smith (and, in particular, server 315 and lines 29-35 of column 15 thereof) to disclose an image distribution server for generating electronic address information and transmitting said electronic address information, as in claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the portions of Smith et al. relied on by the Examiner (hereinafter, merely "Smith") do not disclose the image distribution server for generating and transmitting as specifically recited in amended

claim 1. That is, claim 1 specifically recites ". . . and, only when the user identification and/or password information has been successfully authenticated, for generating electronic address information . . . and transmitting said electronic address information to said image display apparatus using said transmission destination information." In other words, the image distribution server of claim 1 only generates and transmits electronic address information "when the user identification and/or password information has been successfully authenticated." Smith, on the other hand, does not appear to require identification and/or password authentication before the server 315 generates and transmits electronic address information to a recipient.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Maeda et al., Safai et al., and Smith et al. For reasons similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 15 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Maeda et al., Safai et al., and Smith et al.

Claims 3, 4, 6-14, and 16-17 are dependent from one of independent claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 3, 4, 6-14, and 16-17 are distinguishable from Maeda et al., Safai et al., and Smith et al. as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. in view of Safai et al., Smith et al. and Purulski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,666,159).

Claim 2 is dependent from independent claim 1 and, as such, includes all of the features set forth therein. Accordingly, claim 2 is distinguishable from Maeda et al., Safai et al., and Smith et al. as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described with regard to claim 1. The

Examiner appears to only rely on Purulski et al. for the features of claim 2 and not to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Maeda et al., Safai et al., and Smith et al. Accordingly, claim 2 is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., and Purulski et al.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. in view of Safai et al., Smith et al. and Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,642,958).

Claim 5 is dependent from independent claim 1 and, as such, includes all of the features set forth therein. Accordingly, claim 5 is distinguishable from Maeda et al., Safai et al., and Smith et al. as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described with regard to claim 1. The Examiner appears to only rely on Watanabe et al. for the features of claim 5 and not to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Maeda et al., Safai et al., and Smith et al. Accordingly, claim 5 is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., and Watanabe et al.

Claims 18-19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. in view of Safai et al. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. in view of Safai et al., and Purulski et al. As previously indicated, claims 18-20, and 22 have been canceled. The applicants reserve their right to file one or more continuation applications directed to any one or more of the canceled claims.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable

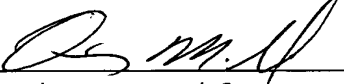
reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 518-6374 in order to overcome any additional objections which he/she might have.

If there are any charges required in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: September 6, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dennis M. Smid

Registration No.: 34,930
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicants